

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 OMB-01 SY-10 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00

SIL-01 LAB-06 AID-20 PC-10 CU-04 MC-02 NIC-01 SCCT-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 PER-05 HEW-08 DRC-01 /161 W

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O R 051512Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7882

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2476

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REFS: (A) ADDIS 2404; (B) USDAO 0140MAR74 DTG 05/1315MAR74;

(C) ASMARA 136 AND 139; (D) USINFO DTG 05/0912ZMAR74;

1. ADDIS ETHIOPIAN ELITE GALVANIZED MARCH 5 WHEN NORMALLY BLAND
"OFFICIAL" ETHIOPIAN HERALD HIT STREET CARRYING FRONT-PAGE
EDITORIAL FILLING FIRST TWO LEFT-HAND COLUMNS NORMALLY DEVOTED
TO PALACE NEWS. EDITORIAL, SIGNED TEGEGNE YETASHEWORK, REPORTED
FULLY IN REF B. EDITORIAL VARIOUSLY INTERPRETED AS AUTHOR'S
SELF-SERVING INITIATIVE (STUDENTS ALREADY CALLING HIM HYPOCRITE
FOR WHAT THEY SEE AS 180-DEGREE TURN OF OFFICIAL WHO LARGELY
RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESS POLICY PREVIOUS IEG); OTHERS SEE IT AS
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GOVERNMENT TRIAL BALLOON. WHATEVER ITS ORIGIN, WE LEAR TO

VIEW IT INDICATED
WHICH WAY WIND CURRENTLY BLOWING.

2. ANOTHER SUCH INDICATOR IS PAMPHLET, CONTENTS OF WHICH SET FORTH PARA 8 REF A. THAT PAMPHLET, BY MACPNG THEM PUBLIC, CONFIRMS AND HARDENS DEMANDS FOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS EARLIER PUT TO CROWN IN PRIVATE (CF PARA 4 ADDIS 2337).

3. THIRD INDICATOR IS CELU STRIKE CALL (PARA 5 REF A), TO BE CARRIED OUT MARCH 7 UNLESS LABOR'S DEMANDS MET. WE VIEW THESE THREE DEVELOPMENTS AS REFLECTIVE OF RISING PRESSURE UPON IEG AND CROWN TO FIND WAY SATISFY AT LEAST MOST URGENT DEMANDS OF PRIVATE, NON-MILITARY SECTOR. AS COUNTRY'S ABILITY PRODUCE THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO THIS END ARE CIRCUMSCRIBED, WE MAY BE HEADED FOR CONFLICT SITUATION OF GROWING ACUITY UNLESS THE NEW GOVERNMENT FINDS WAYS OF CONTAINING OR DILUTING THESE PRESSURES. EMPEROR'S SPEECH TONIGHT MAY ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

4. MARCH 5 SAW TEACHERS ASSOCIATION SPLIT. ITS MILITANT FACTION, UNDER VICE-PRES. KOSSOW, NOT PREPARED ABIDE BY RECOMMENDATION MODERATES THAT TEACHERS RETURN TO CLASSES PENDING REVIEW BY PRIMIN AND NEW IEG OF THEIR GRIEVANCES AND DEMANDS. AS CONSEQUENCE, FEW TEACHERS, BUT NOT STUDENTS, DID RETURN ONLY TO PULL OUT AGAIN WHEN MILITANTS BROKE WINDOWS AND OTHERWISE CREATED DISTURBANCES IN THOSE SCHOTFS WHICH REOPENED THEIR DOORS. TEACHERS SALARY CLAIMS AGAIN IN FOREFRONT OF DISCUSSIONS. MODERATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP LIMITED IN ITS EFFECTIVENESS GIVEN DESIRE SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF MEMBERSHIP STRIKE WHILE IRON IS HOT UNTIL IEG CONCEDES TO TEACHERS' DEMANDS.

5. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT MORE ORDINARY ETHIOPIANS THAN USUAL ARE GOING ABOUT ARMED. WE ALSO HEAR THAT THERE IS HEAVIER THAN USUAL DEMAND ON BANKS FOR CASH TO CARRY PEOPLE THROUGH ANTICIPATED CELU STRIKE.

6. CELU STRIKE CALL BULLETING BEING WIDELY DISSEMINATED. RIPPLE EFFECT HAS GUARDS AT HSIU ASKING FOR PAY RAISE, FAILING WHICH THEY ALSO THREATEN STRIKE. THIS COULD ADD FURTHER COMPLICATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AS STRIKE BY UNIVERSITY GUARD FORCE WOULD COMPEL POLICE AND MILITARY ENTER CAMPUS FORTHWITH TO QUELL ANY DISORDERS. HSIU PRESIDENT AKLILU STAYING AWAY FROM CAMPUS, REPORTEDLY TO AVOID FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WOULD HAVE TO ORDER TEACHERS AND STUDENTS BACK TO WORK, THUS FURTHER EXACERBATING STRESSES.

7. GROUP OF SOME 100 YOUNG ADULTS NOTED TRAVELING AROUND

SOUTHERN PART OF CITY, IN VICINITY AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND OLD AIRPORT, URGING LABORERS AND HOUSEHOLD HELP STAY HOME UNLESS EMPLOYERS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THEIR PAY.

8. PRESS REPORTS THAT RUMP COUNCIL OF MPNISTERS TOOK OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED BY ETHIOPIAN PATRIARCH MARCH 4. IEG HAS ANNOUNCED END OF CURFEW EFFECTIVE TONIGHT.

9. IN INITIAL CONTACT WITH NEW MOD, GEN. ABIY, AND HIS PREDECESSOR, BOTH STRESSED TO CHIEF MAAG IMPORTANCE OF MEANINGFUL SOCIAL REFORM IF ADDITIONAL TROUBLES TO BE AVOIDED. FORMER IEAF COMMANDER, MGEN. ABERRA, IS OUT AND SEARCH FOR REPLACEMENT IS ON. NEW MOD APPEARS CONSIDER THAT CONTINUING DISATISFACTION IN AIR FORCE (WE UNDERSTAND ENLISTED MEN REFUSING TURN IN ARMS THEY SEIZED EARLIER) REQUIRES PRIORITY ATTENTION. HE SAID THAT ADMIRAL DESTA HAD LEFT NAVY A SHAMBLES. FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, LTGEN. ASSEFA AYENE, FINALLY, HAS TOLD MAAGOFF OF HISILISSATISFACTION WITH HIS NEW ASSIGNEMTN AS MIN CIVAV AND TOURISM.

10. AKAKI SHOOTING (REF A) OFFICIALLY ASCRIBED TO ATTEMPTED PRISON BREAK (WE UNDERSTAND FOOD RIOT TRIGGERED SHOTTING). ALTHOUGH REPORTS VARY, IT CLEAR THERE WAS HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE.

11. OVERALL OUTLOOK SEEMS MORE OMINOUS TODAY THAN IT DID YESTERDAY, WITH THURSDAY SHAPING UP AS ANOTHER THREAT OF WIDESPREAD DISORDERS. WYMAN

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